



## Roles of the Family

### Task: Culture and Family Expectation

#### Activity 1: Listening

Welcome to a practice listening task for the GESE 10.

You are going to hear a talk about **culture and family expectation**. You will hear the talk twice. The first time, just listen. Then I'll ask you to tell me generally what the speaker is talking about. Are you ready?

#### Audio Script

Certainly, culture and family expectation play integral roles in shaping the dynamics and behaviors within a family unit. Cultural influences and societal norms impact the values, beliefs, and traditions that guide familial expectations. These expectations, while varying across different cultures and communities, form the foundation of familial roles, responsibilities, and interactions. However, it's important to recognize that cultural expectations may be wrong or incomplete at times, as they are influenced by a myriad of factors and historical contexts. Engaging in open discussions beyond mere **small talk** allows us to delve deeper into the **pensive** aspects of culture and family expectation, questioning their origins and effects. Families, in their inherent **resilience**, have the capacity to embrace cultural values while also adapting and evolving to meet the needs and aspirations of their members. By navigating the intricate interplay between culture and family expectation, we can foster an environment that respects individual identities, encourages personal growth, and supports the well-being of all family members.

Culture exerts a powerful influence on the roles and expectations within a family, shaping the dynamics and interactions among its members. **Firstly**, cultural norms and values establish the standards and expectations placed on different family members, outlining their respective roles within the family unit. These cultural beliefs extend to gender roles, dictating the division of labor and responsibilities. Men and women are assigned specific roles based on these cultural beliefs, influencing their daily tasks and obligations. Moreover, cultural traditions and rituals significantly shape family roles, introducing specific expectations and behaviors. For instance, it may be expected for older siblings to take care of their younger counterparts or for extended family members to participate in decision-making processes. Additionally, cultural attitudes towards education, career choices, and marriage play a pivotal role in determining the expectations placed on individuals within the family. These attitudes greatly impact the paths individuals are encouraged or discouraged to pursue. Immigrant families face a unique challenge as they navigate the fusion of their cultural heritage with the values and norms of the host culture. This interplay often leads to a blending or adaptation of family roles, as families strive to find a balance between preserving their roots and embracing their new environment. Consequently, the influence of culture on family roles is both **quite** significant and **completely** ingrained in the fabric of family life. It shapes not only the surface expectations but also the deeper, **inscrutable** dynamics that guide family interactions. By understanding and appreciating this influence, families can make a



conscious effort to support individual autonomy and foster an environment where family members feel unfettered to make their own choices and pursue their own paths.

Family expectations encompass a set of anticipated behaviors, responsibilities, and achievements that family members are expected to fulfill, shaped by societal and familial values. These expectations have a profound impact on an individual's self-identity and aspirations, influencing choices regarding education, career paths, and personal relationships. However, conflicts may arise when family members hold differing expectations or when individuals feel compelled to conform to expectations that do not align with their own desires or values. The level of flexibility or rigidity within family expectations plays a crucial role in determining the degree of autonomy and independence granted to family members in defining their roles and life choices. Basically, family expectations can either provide a supportive framework for growth or become suffocating constraints. It is absolutely essential to strike a balance between honoring familial values and allowing individuals the freedom to make their own moves. Finally, navigating family expectations can feel like a sink or swim scenario, where individuals must either adapt or struggle. While some may nonchalantly embrace these expectations, others yearn for more agency in shaping their lives. By fostering open communication and understanding, families can create an environment where family members feel supported and empowered to make their own moves while maintaining a deep sense of belonging and connection.

Don't you think it might be beneficial for individuals when family expectations provide a certain level of flexibility? By allowing individuals to pursue their personal passions, it totally creates an environment where personal growth and fulfillment can thrive. When families adopt an approach that doesn't turn a blind eye to individual aspirations, it opens up possibilities for self-discovery and self-expression. Embracing the idea that family expectations can transcend rigidity acknowledges the inevitable evolution of individuals and their unique paths in life. When individuals are given the freedom to make a move towards their personal passions, it ignites a spark within them, enabling them to explore their potential and contribute to society in meaningful ways. Therefore, the empowerment that comes with flexible family expectations fosters a sense of purpose and happiness, creating an environment where individuals can thrive and flourish.

Can you tell me in one or two sentences what the speaker was talking about?

Now listen to the talk again. This time make some notes as you listen, if you want to. Then I'll ask you to tell me about the point of view of the speaker, the culture's influence on family roles and family expectations and their impact on roles.

Now tell me about the point of view of the speaker, the culture's influence on family roles and family expectations and their impact on roles. You have one minute to talk.

This is the end of the listening task.

**Answers:**

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| <p>Point of view of the speaker</p>                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Flexible family expectations empower individuals to pursue personal passions, fostering growth and fulfillment.</li> </ul>   |
| <p>Culture's Influence on Family Roles</p>           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cultural norms and values shape the expectations placed on different family members and define their roles within the family unit.</li> <li>• Cultural beliefs about gender roles often dictate the division of labor and responsibilities within a family, influencing the roles assigned to men and women.</li> <li>• Cultural traditions and rituals play a significant role in shaping family roles, such as the expectation for older siblings to care for younger siblings or the involvement of extended family in decision-making.</li> <li>• Cultural attitudes towards education, career choices, and marriage can significantly impact the expectations placed on individuals within the family and their corresponding roles.</li> <li>• Immigrant families often navigate the interplay between their cultural heritage and the values and norms of the host culture, leading to a blending or adaptation of family roles.</li> </ul> |
| <p>Family Expectations and their Impact on Roles</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Family expectations refer to the set of anticipated behaviors, responsibilities, and achievements that family members are expected to fulfill based on societal and familial values.</li> <li>• Family expectations can shape an individual's self-identity and aspirations, as they often influence decisions about education, career choices, and personal relationships.</li> <li>• Conflicts may arise when family members have differing expectations or when individuals feel pressured to conform to expectations that do not align with their own desires or values.</li> <li>• The degree of flexibility or rigidity within family expectations can influence the level of autonomy and independence that family members are allowed to exercise in defining their roles and life choices.</li> </ul>   |

Marks: +\_ / +10



**Grammar Used in the listening task:**

- **Modifiers:** basically / quite / certainly
- **Intensifiers:** absolutely / completely / totally
- **Tentative Expressions:** I may be wrong but.... / Don't you think it might be....?
- **Signposting Words:** firstly / finally
- **Idioms / Expressions:** under the weather / to be bored to tears / sink or swim / a shoulder to cry on / turn a blind eye to / to my mind / small talk / get it off your chest / be at a loose end / make a move / laugh your head off